

Benefits of working at the USPTO PTAB

- *Ranked #1 Place to Work in the Federal Government®*
- *Work-life balance*
- *Flexible work schedules*
- *Telework*
- *Paid Leave*
- *Salary range and Incentive Awards program*
- *Bar dues reimbursement for one jurisdiction*



United States Patent and Trademark Office Patent Trial and Appeal Board

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**Patent Trial and
Appeal Board**

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Overview of the PTAB

- The PTAB is comprised of 179 judges.
- Support staff includes patent attorneys, paralegals, detailees, and administrative support.
- Areas of the PTAB's jurisdiction include:
 - Appeals from adverse examiner decisions in patent applications and reexamination proceedings
 - AIA trial proceedings (must be completed within one year of institution)
 - Interferences.

The PTAB Inventory

- The PTAB has a current inventory of:
 - Approximately 26,000 appeals from adverse examiner decisions
 - Approximately 968 AIA trials (either pending decision on institution or awaiting final written decision)
 - Approximately 50 interferences.



Locations in California, Colorado, Michigan, Texas, and Virginia!

APJ Candidates

- Since October 2011, the PTAB has selected 128 highly qualified candidates to become new Judges.
 - Approximately 1/4 of the APJs selected since October 2011 have been in one of the four satellite offices.
- Selectees typically have:
 - Between 7-35 years experience in the practice of patent law (prosecution, litigation, or both)
 - Degree(s)/work experience in science or engineering.
- Greatest demand for experience in handling of patent matters in the areas of electrical engineering, software, data processing.
- Must be able to work collaboratively (in 3 judge panels).
- Must have excellent written and oral communication skills and excellent legal reasoning skills.
- Must have basic proficiency with Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat.

APJ Training

New Judge Orientation

- All new judges participate in a one-week orientation training session.
- Topics covered include: internal Board procedures, Board organization/infrastructure, and Board resources.

Training Committee

- The Board has a Training Committee that conducts formal training for all members of the Board.

Mentoring Program

- The Board has a Mentoring Program that matches new judges with senior judges.

APJ Work Assignments

- All judges begin working on ex parte appeals.
- Judge assignments to other areas of jurisdiction (e.g., AIA trials, appeals from inter partes reexamination proceedings, and interferences) are based on need.

